



“LITTLE GEMS”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

“Little Gems” <i>Pretty Deed</i>	1
<i>Summer Interns</i>	2
<i>World War I Centennial Committee</i>	2
<i>Early Disease in Loudoun</i>	3
<i>Feature Article</i> <i>Peddlers & Hawkers</i>	4-5
<i>Programs</i>	7
<i>By the Numbers</i>	7

Historic Records and Deed Research Staff

Gary M. Clemens,
Clerk of Circuit Court
Eric Larson,
Historic Records Manager
Sarah Markel,
Historic Records Clerk
Alyssa Fisher,
Historic Records Clerk

Volunteers

John Fishback
Rose Marie Walter
Shannon Fuller

Summer Interns

Charles Freiberg
Rachel Stewart

Busy Spring by Eric Larson

Spring was a busy time for the Historic Records staff and volunteers. Our April Prohibition First Friday Program had over 100 visitors, but it was quickly surpassed by our June conservation program that drew 160 visitors. The June open house was featured in the [Loudoun's Sunday Edition of the Washington Post](#). The June program also featured displays by the Fairfax Clerk of Circuit Court Archives, Balch Library, Friends of the Balch, and the Balch Black History Committee.

On the conservation front, staff and volunteers replaced 94 original deed and will book binders with new binders made by *CW Warthen Records Preservation Specialist*. John Fishback began in-house conservation of the county's Land Tax Books. Alyssa Fisher proofed and prepared over 100,000 images of deed and will book scans for the Clerk's land records database upgrade project. Alyssa also completed a reorganization of the Slave Index, thus providing better access for our customers. Sarah Markel finished a project of numbering 32 boxes of road cases and has completed a year long project, flat filing and indexing all criminal cases from 1757-1955.

Future projects include the creation of a walking map for the court house grounds, proofing all our free black papers and preparing for the next round of conservation grants. Our next First Friday open house on October 7, 2016, will highlight our criminal records project.



“PRETTY DEED” BY SARAH MARKEL



Picture yourself in the 4th grade. You're sitting at your desk, your notebook, and pencils in front of you. Your teacher tells you that today you are going to be learning cursive. After your lesson the teacher tells you to take out your pencil and paper and practice making your letters. How did you do? Were your letters even on the line? Did they wander up at an angle or down below the line?

Every day in Historic records customers ask us “How do you read this?” Our usual answer is “Your eyes just get used to the letters.” But, truthfully it is just as our 4th grade teachers told us “Practice, Practice, Practice.”

In today's world of computers and texting, cursive writing is quickly becoming a lost art. But for the Clerks of Court in the 1700s & 1800s it was a daily routine. Although, just like today, some Clerks had better handwriting than others.

You can picture a Clerk sitting at their desk, quill pen in hand, writing out the court proceedings into the order books, aided only by the light from the window or a candle on the corner of the desk. While most of the writings are clear, some are very hard to read, and some are truly magnificent examples of penmanship at its best.

Continued on page 6

...join forces to commemorate the centennial of World War I – a fight that saw efforts on the home front as well as on battlefields in Europe.

Summer Interns

Charles Freiberg is interning for a second summer with Historic Records. Charles is a Junior at UVA pursuing a degree in History and Philosophy. He is re-indexing the Free Negro Register 1844-1861 to add all the physical characteristics listed in the freedom certificates.

Rachel Stewart is back for a second year as an intern. Rachel just graduated from Briar Woods HS and will be attending Suffolk University in Boston in the Fall pursuing a degree in Art History. She is scanning Court Order Books and researching the early Chancery records for Broad-sides, slave papers, and other interesting documents to enhance chancery searches.

Loudoun World War I Centennial Committee: Commemorating The Great War

It hasn't been that long since many of Loudoun's heritage and history organizations worked together to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. With that successful venture behind us, we now join forces to commemorate the centennial of World War I – a war that saw efforts on the home front as well as on battlefields in Europe.

Many may ask "What does World War I have to do with Loudoun County?" Well, you don't have to look far to find out. Loudoun's three historic house museums, for instance, have direct ties to the War: The Marshall House's George C. Marshall served in WWI as a staff officer, Oatlands' William Corcoran Eustis served on General Pershing's staff, and Morven Park's owner Westmoreland Davis was governor of Virginia during part of WWI, leading the efforts on the home front. The Loudoun Museum has many artifacts from WWI in its collection, including photographs of the county's veterans – African Americans posed in one photo beside the courthouse, whites in another photo in the same spot. Our Court archives hold numerous records of the war and its time period including the "Muster Roll for the War with Germany." Aldie Mill's history reflects the efforts of Loudoun farmers to support the war on the Home Front, while the Mosby Heritage Area Association provides programs and publications reflecting Loudoun's early 20th century landscape.

Of course, many of Loudoun's male citizens fought in the war, and some gave their lives. A list of their names is inscribed on the World War I monument on the Court House lawn. In their memory, and in memory of all who served in different capacities in battle or here at home, the World War I Centennial Committee is working to present programs, events and publications throughout the next several years. Stay tuned for what's coming up!

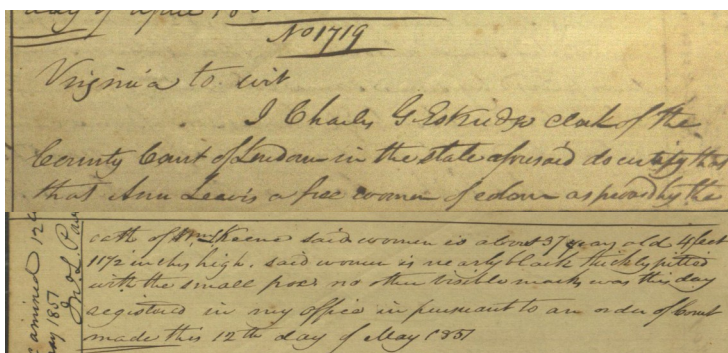
Tracy J. Gillespie
WWI Centennial-
Committee Member



Early Diseases in Loudoun By: Charles Freiberg

In the mid-nineteenth century Loudoun County, much like the rest of the country, was greatly impacted by smallpox. As you would expect, the impact of smallpox can be seen throughout the court records. For example, there is an account from 1850 in which James Martin was paid eight dollars to remove and burn the furniture from a smallpox room. In that same year there was also an order to procure a house in Leesburg suitable for the reception of people affected by smallpox. The timing of these records is particularly interesting because following the introduction of inoculation or variolation, and the subsequent discovery of vaccination in 1796, the cases of smallpox were greatly diminished. But as the century progressed vaccinations became neglected and incidences of smallpox increased. Then, beginning in the 1830s the cases of small-

pox intensified until the Civil War where it became a serious problem. So records like this indicate the extent to which smallpox affected the people of Loudoun County during this time and the steps that were taken by the people and the government to prevent the spread of the disease.



Sarah Hudland Freedom Certificate

Also, the impact of smallpox can be seen throughout the "Record of Free Negroes," a book that contains the certifications of freedom for people between 1844 and 1861. The certificates include detailed physical descriptions of the people whose freedom was being proved. The great detail that the clerk included in these descriptions allows us a glimpse at the diseases that affected the slave and free black population of this time and the permanent impact of these diseases. These descriptions include references to the scars or pock marks left from smallpox. For example, it was recorded in 1847 that Sarah Hudland "is very plainly pitted with the smallpox." Descriptions like this were relatively common during this time period. These descriptions also included the physical marks of the treatment of smallpox. One case from 1847 included the description of a scar left from a smallpox vaccination. Also, there was a case from 1854 that described the scars left from kinpox, now known as cowpox. Kinpox is a disease similar to smallpox but much less severe and was typically contracted through contact with the udders of infected cows. In the 1790s Edward Jenner found that cowpox could be used to inoculate people against smallpox giving rise to the first smallpox vaccine.

Outside of smallpox there were also cases of many other disease in the "Record of Free Negroes." One example, from 1849, is a case of the "king's evil." The king's evil was another term used for Scrofula or Struma, a tuberculous which causes the lymph glands to swell. The disease was named this because it was once thought to be curable by the touch of the monarch. This belief largely died out when Queen Ann of England, the last British Royal healer, died in 1714, though it was briefly brought back during the reign of Charles X in France and this may be why the Clerk, Charles Eskridge, listed the disease as the king's evil.

Other cases include one from 1847 of the scars left from a person being bled, and another from 1859 of a scar because of "a cancer." These documents give a unique look at the diseases that impacted people of this time period and in some cases of the medical practices used to treat diseases.

Kinpox is a disease similar to smallpox but much less severe.

Retail Licenses Part 1: Peddlers and Hawkers of Loudoun County in the Early Nineteenth Century

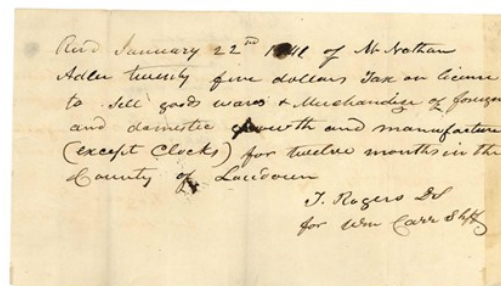
By: Alyssa Fisher

The Historic Records and Deed Research Division has several online indexes for a variety of historical business licenses including liquor and ordinaries (taverns), mills, restaurants and hotels, retail licenses, and soft drinks. The retail license index includes 107 peddler and exhibitor licenses, from 1802 to 1847. Virginia law throughout the early nineteenth century compiled licenses for peddlers, hawkers, exhibits, and public shows under “an Act imposing taxes for the support of Government.”¹ While peddlers and hawkers were taxed under the same legislation as exhibits and public shows, the two separate entities provide different information about Loudoun in the nineteenth century. This article focuses on peddler licenses as one of the records of Loudoun’s economic history in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Spurred by the Industrial Revolution, the increase in production of goods led manufacturers to find ways to increase revenue by expanding their markets to other localities and states. Local courts issued licenses to both local residents and individuals out of the county or state. Some individuals sold their own goods, but a larger majority sold products manufactured by someone else. Licenses permitted peddlers to sell goods for one year, after which time the peddlers would have to obtain a new license. Most of the names in the index obtained a license only once. This indicates the transient nature of business as a peddler as the individuals did not obtain licenses for consecutive years. About 94% of the licenses issued permitted the sale of foreign and domestic goods (except for clocks), or allowed the trade of pewter, lead, and tin. The remaining 6% of licenses permitted the sale of other miscellaneous goods including clocks, jewelry and plated ware, as well as drugs and medicines.²

Peddlers in tin, pewter, and lead, sometimes built temporary shops and usually sold items from the fall to spring. These individuals then returned to their homes for agriculture in the summer. Abner Booth obtained a license “to peddle tin etc.” from November until the first of May, a prime time to plant summer crops.³ Other individuals obtained licenses “to sell goods, wares, & merchandise, of foreign and domestic growth, and manufacture, (except clocks).”⁴ Licenses for the sale of these type of goods ranged from ten dollars to thirty dollars throughout the early nineteenth century. Licenses to sell clocks, however, cost \$100 per year by 1836. Only two individuals in Loudoun paid for a license to sell clocks, James E. Fellows and Peter Derry, both in 1836.⁵

Peddler licenses gave individuals the freedom to sell goods without having an established shop or stand. Peddlers could travel to various communities to try to sell goods door to door. While this availed peddlers the opportunity to bring their goods to their consumers, instead of the consumers coming to them, certain items could be difficult to sell depending on the community. Peter Derry petitioned the General Assembly in 1839 for permission to hold a public auction to sell clocks he was unable to sell during his one year license. Derry’s petition stated “he paid to the revenue of the State, the tax, of \$100, for a license to sell in the County of Loudoun, Clocks, of a foreign manufacture.” His petition continued:



Peddler License for Nathan Adler, 1841

Peddler licenses gave individuals the freedom to sell goods without having an established shop or stand.

¹The General Assembly of Virginia, *A Collection Of All Such Acts Of The General Assembly of Virginia of a Public and Permanent Nature as have Passed Since The Session of 1801* (Richmond: Samuel Pleasants, Jr., 1808), 17.

²Joseph T. Rainer, “The “Sharper” Image: Yankee Peddlers, Southern consumers, and the Market Revolution,” *Business and Economic History* 26, no. 1 (Fall 1997): 27-43; Joyce Appleby, *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2001), 82-83; Retail Licenses, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office.

³Abner Booth, Retail License, 1819, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office.

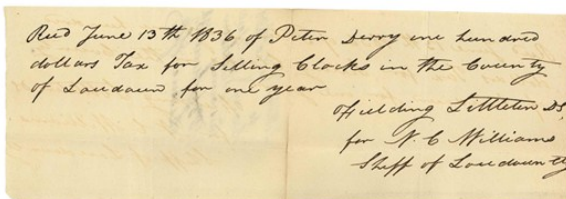
⁴Nathan Adler, Retail License, 1836, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office.

⁵James E. Fellows, Retail License, 1836, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Peter Derry, Retail License, 1836, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office.

The prospects of the farming interest of the County was such that, no effort of his was sufficient to enable him to sell but a few of the supply, with which he furnished himself. — it was to the farming community that he looked, in availing himself, of the occupation, among whom, he expected to dispose of his stock; but the failure of crops, in that year, prevented them from supplying themselves, until the license of your Petitioner expired.⁶

Derry still had in his possession \$1,000 worth of clocks that he no longer had a license to sell. He also did not have enough money to purchase another clock peddler license at \$100, to enable him to sell the "dead capital" he had in his possession. Derry, as a native of Loudoun County, believed selling clocks would be a lucrative business in his community. Due to outside factors however, the peddling business did not work out.⁷

The number of peddler licenses in Loudoun remained steady from 1820 to 1840, but doubled in the 1840s. Many merchants and local peddlers felt this increase in Loudoun as they petitioned the General Assembly for more stringent peddler laws. In 1841, John Smith of Neersville complained that his part of the county had "been inundated by with [sic] Foreign pedlars [sic], to the great detriment of the regular merchants, whose sales have been considerably curtailed and the people imposed upon by the intrigue of these cunning foreign hawkers."⁸



Peter Derry's Peddler License to sell clocks, 1836

His petition requested legislation "to prohibit foreigners, who are not naturalized from obtaining licenses to peddle."⁹ Similar sentiment came from other Loudoun residents with four more petitions in 1842 to prohibit multiple peddlers from operating under the same license as a firm, and to regulate the number of non-resident peddlers who sold goods within the county. The increase in "foreign" peddlers may have been a result of increased access to the area by transportation on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad a few miles north in Harpers Ferry. A remedy to some of their concerns came with legislation passed restricting peddlers in 1842 which stated:

But one hawker or pedlar [sic] of any kind whatsoever, shall trade under the same license; nor shall it be lawful for any such to sell by an agent, but all such licenses shall be held and taken as a personal privilege and authority to the individual in whose name the license shall be issued; nor shall any license be issued to any firm or company of hawkers and pedlars [sic] whatsoever.¹⁰

The new legislation must have had an effect as the number of licenses issued in the remaining years of the 1840s after 1842 decreased by 50%.¹¹

The retail papers can provide insight into the economic effects peddlers had on the residents and government of the county. Peddler licenses provided revenue to the state through taxes, and in some cases provided extra income for the individuals selling goods. At times however, the retail papers can provide the basis for further research that suggests peddling was not as lucrative for some individuals like Peter Derry. Still the influx of retail licenses in the 1840s shows the troubles local peddlers and merchants faced with the onslaught of new "foreign" or non-residential peddlers. Though the peddler licenses are a large portion of the retail papers found in the Clerk's Office, 22% of those licenses are for more enjoyable shows and exhibitions. See the next newsletter for an article about circuses, equestrian shows, curiosities, and a museum.

John Smith of Neersville complained that his part of the county had "been inundated by with [sic] Foreign pedlars...."

⁶Derry, Peter: Petition, Loudoun County, February 2, 1839, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

⁷Rainer, 27-43; Derry, Peter: Petition, Loudoun County, February 2, 1839, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

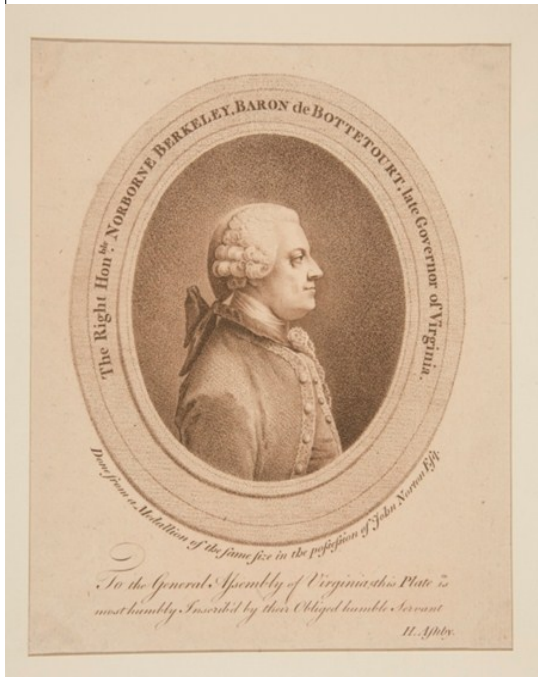
⁸Smith, John: Correspondence, Loudoun County, February 26, 1841, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

⁹Smith, John: Correspondence, Loudoun County, February 26, 1841, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

¹⁰The General Assembly of Virginia, *Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, Passed at the Session Commencing 6th December 1841, and ending 26th March 1842, in the Sixty-Sixth Year of the Commonwealth* (Richmond: Samuel Shepherd, 1842), 5.

¹¹Smith, John: Correspondence, Loudoun County, February 26, 1841, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va; Citizens: Petition, Loudoun County, January 3, 1842, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va; Citizens: Petition, Loudoun County, January 17, 1842, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va; Citizens: Petition, Loudoun County, January 3, 1842, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va; Citizens: Remonstrance, Loudoun County, January 21, 1842, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

"Pretty Deed" Continued from page 1



In the Book of "Little Gems," I found a reference to a "Pretty Deed." This reference was not for a deed but for a Sheriff's Commission located in Deed Book G page 68. When I looked at this entry I was instantly struck by the level of detail in each letter, and the exquisite drawing of the royal crown. As you can see in the picture the Clerk spent an inordinate amount of time on this entry.

This Commission is between His Excellency the Right Honorable Norborne Baron de Botetourt, His Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia and Vice Admiral of the same and John McIlhane Esq. The original document would have been written in Williamsburg and sent to Loudoun County. Mr. McIlhane would have then brought the document to be presented to the Court. The justices would have then ordered it entered into the deed book and once it was

entered the original document would have been given back to Mr. McIlhane. Once this commission was entered by the Court, Mr. McIlhane would assume the responsibilities as Sheriff.

The original Sheriffs Commission would have been sealed with the Botetourt's personal seal. Looking at the detail of the seal of the crown, drawn by Clerk Charles Binns Sr., you can only imagine how beautiful and detailed the original must have been. Mr. Charles Binns Sr. was truly a master at his craft.

His Excellency the Right Honorable
Baron de Botetourt, His Majesty's
Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia and Vice Admiral of the same
To John McIlhane Esq^r
By Virtue of the Power and Authority to me given, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of this Colony, I Do hereby constitute and appoint you, the said John McIlhane, Sheriff of the County of Loudoun during Pleasure. And that you be accordingly sworn, as soon as conveniently may be, and before you are so sworn, or admitted into the said Office, You are to enter a Bond, before his Majesty's Justice of the said County, with two or more good and sufficient Sureties, in the sum of One Thousand pounds current money, to render to the Auditor and Receiver General of his Majesty's Revenues a particular, perfect, and true Account, of his Majesty's Rents and Dues arising within your County, and also due payment to make of all other Dues and Fees put into your hands to be collected within the said County unto the several Persons to whom the same shall be due or payable, and true Performance to make of all Matters and Things relating to your Office during your continuance therein. And I do hereby command all his Majesty's Subjects inhabiting the said County, and others actually there, to be aiding and assisting you the said John McIlhane as Sheriff of the County aforesaid in all Things belonging to your Office of Sheriff.
Given under my Hand, and the Seal of the Colony at Williamsburg the fifth of November and in the Ninth Year of his Majesty's Reign.
Botetourt
At a Court held for Loudoun County November the 14th 1762.
John McIlhane Gent produced this Commission which being read, and the said John McIlhane having taken the usual Oaths and Test, and Entered into and executed Bond with Security, the Court of the same is Ordered to be Recorded.

BY THE NUMBERS JANUARY-JUNE 2016

Date	Patrons	Email	Mail	Phone	In House Copies	Sent Copies	Total Copies	Vol. Hours	Scans
Jan	240	79	87	285	1177	355	1530	45.5	792
Feb	445	48	126	366	2271	445	2716	65	1868
Mar	426	82	100	372	2451	415	2886	69	1720
Apr	471	127	132	399	1616	491	2107	69	2902
May	355	51	111	358	1910	470	2379	55.5	0
Jun	588*	67	101	372	2064	623	2687	240**	1495
Total	1937	454	657	2152	11489	2799	14305	304	8777

*Includes 160 visitors for June's First Friday

**Includes 136 Hrs worked by 2 summer interns

Fall Programs

Presentments, Sentencings, and Punishments: Crime in Loudoun County 1757-1955

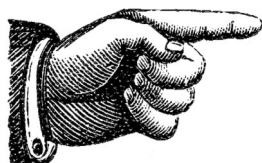
October 7, 2016 Fall Open House (First Friday) 6:00-8PM

This exhibit will display and explain the sentencing and punishment of criminals using the court's historic criminal records.

More events and exhibits will be added throughout the year. Please check our website for more details.

All Open Houses will be held at:

Court Complex
18 E. Market St
Leesburg Virginia



Tell us about Your "Little Gems" of Loudoun County History. Go to www.loudoun.gov/Clerk/LittleGems and complete the "Little Gems" Form. Future editions of our newsletter will highlight a "Little Gem" submitted by our readers. So get researching, the next spotlight may be your discovery!

Clerk of The Circuit
Court Historic
Records

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Attn: Historic Records
P.O. Box 550
Leesburg, VA 20178
703-737-8775
Email
Clerk-Archives@loudoun.gov



Land Records & Deed Research

Loudoun is one of only a few counties in the Commonwealth that has records dating from its formation in 1757 when it split from Fairfax County. The Historic Records and Deed Research division includes all historic court records 1757-1980s and land records from 1757-present. Research can be conducted by using both in-house and online databases and paper indexes. Our staff can provide guidance and suggestions to start your research but **cannot provide research services or legal advice**. To prepare for your visit please review our online links to indexes and county databases which provide a starting point in your records research.

If you Visit the Archives

There is a court order that establishes court security protocols that serve the best interests of all visitors to the various courts and court-related offices in the Courts Complex. Therefore, electronic mobile devices such as cellphones with cameras, laptop computers, and electronic tablets are currently not permitted in the Courts Complex. To assist the patrons of the Historic Records/Archives research room, the Clerk's Office provides computer workstations with internet access so our patrons can review the websites of other historic records museums and historic records research organizations to assist with research needs in the Clerk's Office.

Don't Forget to check our updated webpage!

Dozens of
Updated &
New Indexes

Helpful Links
&
Resources

What's New

Have a
Question?